

14. Dwarf Chinkapin oak – the National champion and thusly the Nebraska Forest Service Champion tree resides in Richardson County in a timber southwest of Salem.

15. Northern red oak – acorns are bitter, unlike the sweeter acorns of the white oak. Red oak has wood that is used for a variety of purposes from fence posts and flooring to furniture. Native Americans used it for medicines to care for ailments like digestive disorder, respiratory ailment, and skin disease.

16. White oak – this species may live to be 800 years old. A mature tree can produce up to 5,000 acorns a year and feed at least 200 species of birds and mammals. Wood is used for furniture, flooring, and wine casks.

17. Swamp white oak – not a true Nebraska native, but a regional native plant. A tree may produce a large crop of acorns every 3-5 years. The nuts are sweet and nutritionally important for duck, turkey, songbirds, squirrel, mice, and deer. The wood is hard, heavy and strong. It is used as a fuel and in the manufacture of cabinets, interior finishing, and fence posts.

AN ACCOUNTING OF THE SITE

Beginning its work on June 1, 1989, a Working Committee of 11 citizens began to set goals and action plans for an arboretum. Owned by The Richardson Foundation, Inc, this land tract of 2.2 acres more or less was donated by the late Henry Krumme as a memorial to Itha (EYE-thuh), his deceased spouse.

The theme of the arboretum is plant materials native to Nebraska and surrounding states. This is the only ‘native plants’ theme within the entire Nebraska Statewide Arboretum network of affiliates!

The late Jim Kluck, dba Dublin Nursery and Landscaping, Rogers, Nebraska was selected as the primary contractor for installing the original woody plant materials. On April 29, 1992, Ohio buckeye and limber pine were the first deciduous and coniferous plants, respectively, established. The initial planting that continued into 1993 included 128 trees and 400 shrubs. Also installed were native grass associations and wildflowers.

Three redwood structures, a Heritage Wall at the north entry, hitching posts, and an actual jail and church bell both from Salem are all part of the acreage.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum recognized this site as an associate on February 26, 1993.

This particular arboretum is fully maintained and developed with entirely private funding and volunteer labor. No city or county financial support is received. If you wish to make a donation of time, a memorial planting, cash, or other assets, contact:

The Richardson Foundation,
P. O. Box 161,
Falls City, NE 68355.

Thanks for taking your time to tour the Itha Krumme Memorial Arboretum.

*"Nature is an open book
to those who care to read."*

author unknown

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Itha Krumme
Memorial
Arboretum



Self Guided Tour
Koso-Baldwin Parkway • West 25th Street
Falls City, Nebraska

www.fallscityonline.com
www.sentco.net
www.arboretum.unl.edu


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CELL PHONE TOUR

402-245-4747

New in 2008 is a cellular phone tour. Up to nine mailboxes with a maximum of five minutes each describe various plantings. The messages are refreshed throughout the growing season. It's fun to hear these descriptions, either factual or folklore! This type of tour is the second of its kind in the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum network.


USE OF THIS GUIDE

The  symbol illustrates there is an interpretive sign at that site. This guide is meant to give the user more details about selected plantings and features. A number on the identification post matches the number in this publication.

1.  **Heritage Wall** – At the northwest entry, a shelter is partially bordered by a rock wall. These walls were built from historical stones and brick from Richardson County.


2. **Serviceberry** – Serviceberry fruit is a favorite of over sixty wildlife species including many songbirds. Native Americans crushed the berries into cakes and sun dried them for winter food.


3. **Western Sandcherry** – Native Americans pounded this fruit into a mush and dried it into patties for winter food. European settlers used the fruit for sauce and pies.

4.  **Butterfly Garden** – This garden has over 20 native plants. "Bee" careful, because where butterflies are attracted, so are bees!

5. **Nebraska's State Tree** – Cottonwood is the tree whose leaves never seem to be still. This leaf petiole (the slender stalk attaching the leaf) is flattened laterally causing flutter in even the slightest wind. Note the scientific name on the plate. *Populus deltoides* is the native eastern cottonwood. The addition of the name 'Mighty Mo' indicates the cultivar. Although cottonwood is susceptible to branch breakage, the holes left by broken limbs can provide homes for cavity-nesting birds and other animals.

6. **Limber Pine** – Native to the southwestern Nebraska Panhandle and intermountain U. S., the limber pine is a long lived, slow growing tree that is well adapted to harsh sites.

7.  **Learn More About It** – We encourage you to use plant materials like these and to care for them correctly. Trees, for example, give habitat, food, and shelter for wildlife, while also providing shade and energy savings. Plants use tons of carbon dioxide.

8.  **Pawnee Big Bluestem** The vegetation of the prairie consisted primarily of grasses but also contains forbs such as wildflowers. The thick growth of prairie plants kept out non-native plants. The thick root network in the prairie soil provided the dense sod used to build homes for the settlers.

9. **Elms** The American elm was widely planted at one time and was almost wiped out by Dutch elm disease. 'Liberty' is a cultivar. Located just south of these American elms is the slippery elm, or, red elm. Early Nebraskans chewed the inner bark to relieve thirst, and, steeped it into water to treat fevers. Also, the rock elm is part of this collection. This wood is the hardest, heaviest and strongest of the elms. It has been used to make piano frames, hockey sticks, and axe handles; refrigerators and automobiles once were made from this wood. Of the old adage: "Talk softly and carry a big stick" –choose a rock elm!

NATIVE OAKS

The site has eight Nebraska and regionally native oaks.

10. **Black oak** – Native Americans used black oak to treat a wide variety of ailments including indigestion, chills, fevers, respiratory problems, sore eyes, and more. It was also used to induce vomiting and as an antiseptic.

11. **Blackjack oak** – Blackjack oak is also commonly referred to as 'scrub oak,' a reference to its stunted and gnarled appearance. Blackjack oak wood is heavy and strong. It is used as a source of charcoal and fuel.

12. **Bur oak** – this oak survived well on the plains because of its heavy bark, which is 1-2 inches thick. Such a bark provided insulation from the fires that periodically swept through the grasslands of the early Midwest. The tree gets its name from the fringed, bur-like cap on its acorns.

13. **Chinkapin oak** – this tree got its name from the Native Americans, a name meaning 'large'. It is also called Yellow Chestnut Oak. The chair of St. Peter in the Vatican at Rome, Italy is made of this oak. The species honors Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, 18th-19th century Lutheran minister-botanist from Pennsylvania.